

**Archie**  
**ACTION!**  
ARCHIECOMICS.COM

# SONIC™

## THE HEDGEHOG



THE HEDGEHOG | 279



PEPPERS & DUSKIN  
MUNZGER

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures—a world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!



**CHARACTER  
= SELECT =**

# SONIC™

## THE HEDGEHOG

### PREVIOUSLY...



**SONIC  
THE WERHOGG**  
SONIC'S WILDER SIDE!



**ANTOINETTE  
D'COLETTE**  
SOLDIER & SWORDSMAN



**BIG THE CAT**  
GENTLE GIANT



**CHIP**  
THE LIGHT GAIA SPIRIT



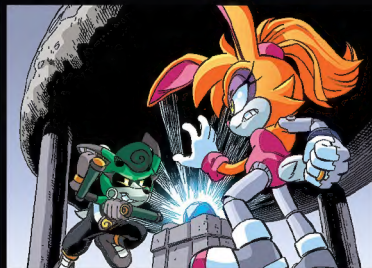
**SPIKE, SONAR  
AND TREVOR**  
LOCAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS

### AMBUSHED?

Sonic and his friends have traveled to the desert country of Shamar to find Ehsan, the guardian of that region's Gaia Key! There they met the Shamar Freedom Fighters and set out to rescue Ehsan from the Egg Army, but instead fell into a trap!

Meanwhile, Sally and Bunnie have been hunting for the final missing Chaos Emerald!

Sally parted on good terms with Egg Boss, Clove – but Bunnie is in big trouble thanks to Clove's sister, Cassia...



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (ISSN:10705090), No. 279, May, 2016. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100, Pelham, NY 10803-1242. Jon Goldwater, Publisher/Co-CEO, Nancy Silberkleit, Co-CEO, Mike Pellerito, President, Victor Gorelick, Co-President. Single copies \$3.99. Subscription rate: \$47.88 for 12 issues. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. ©SEGA. All rights reserved. SEGA is registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office. SEGA, the SEGA logo, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, SONIC UNIVERSE and SONIC BOOM™ are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA Holdings Co., Ltd. or its affiliates. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 250 East Olive Avenue, Ste 200, Burbank, CA 91502 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100, Pelham, NY 10803-1242. Printed in USA.

ARID SANDS ZONE--  
JUST OUTSIDE THE  
GAIA TEMPLE...

# FACE OF THE ENEMY

Part Two: FRIENDS IN DEED

JUUUUUST GREAT!

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A RESCUE MISSION! NOW I'M IN THE THICK OF IT!

AT LEAST WITH THE EGG ARMY HERE...

SONIC THE WEREHOG  
SONIC'S FEROCIOUS TRANSFORMATION

WRITER: IAN FLYNN • PENCILS: ADAM BRYCE THOMAS • INKS: TERRY AUSTIN  
COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA • LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN  
COVER BY JAMAL PEPPERS, TERRY AUSTIN AND BEN HUNZEKER  
FREE FALL VARIANT BY JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, GARY MARTIN AND BEN HUNZEKER  
ASSISTANT EDITOR: JONATHAN H. GRAY • EDITOR: VINCENT LOVALLO  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELICK • PRESIDENT: MIKE PELLERITO  
PUBLISHER/CO-CEO: JON GOLDWATER  
SPECIAL THANKS TO SANDRA JO AND MAI KIYOTAKI  
AT SEGA LICENSING

"...THINGS SHOULD BE EASIER FOR EVERYONE ELSE!"

**FWOOSH!**

**ANTOINE SWORDSMAN**

TRYING TO BLIND ME SO YOU CAN ROAST ME? ZAT IS NOT ZE FAIR FIGHT!

**CHING!**

LUCKILY, I AM TOO SKILLED TO NEED ZE FAIR FIGHT!

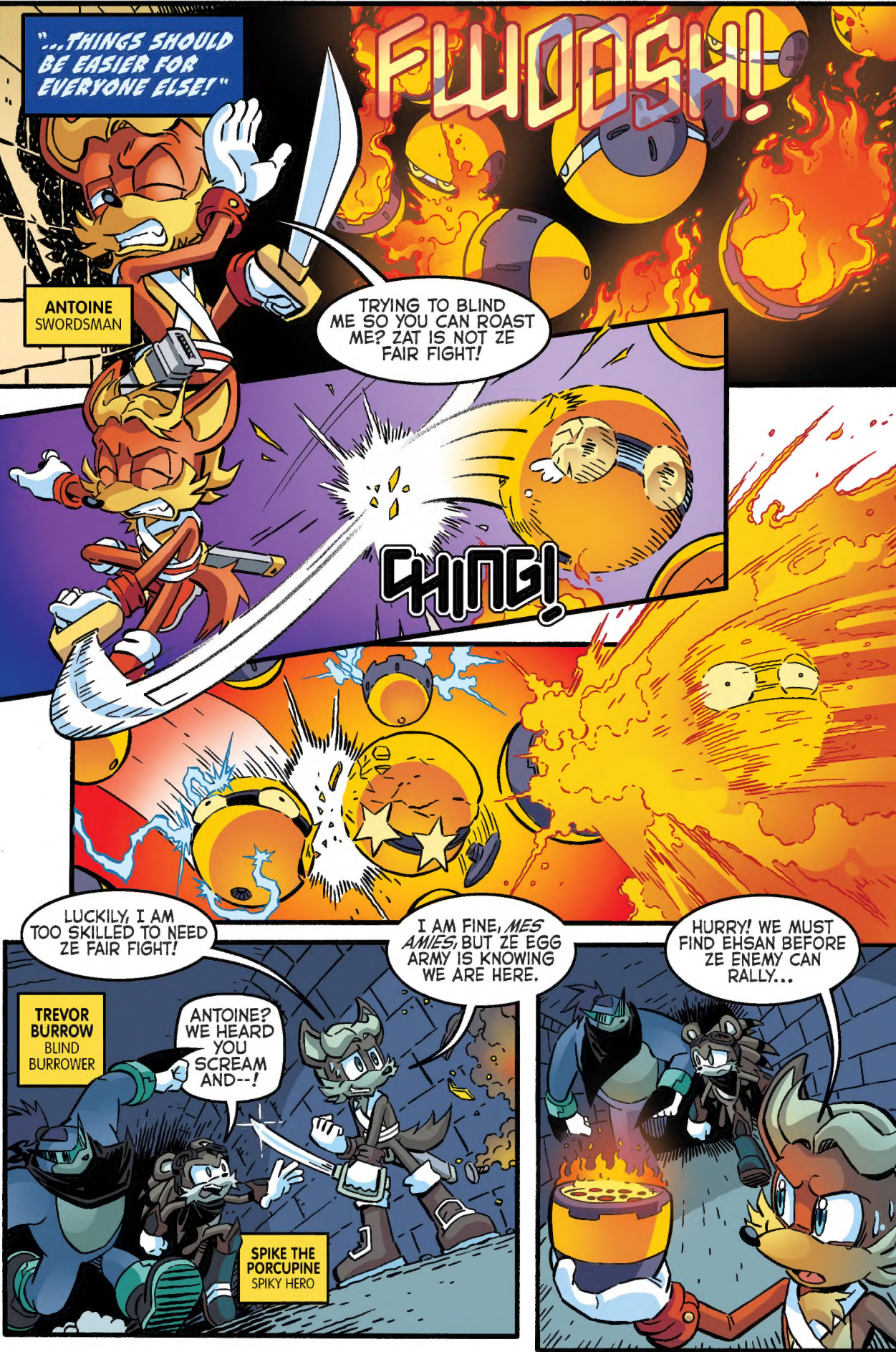
**TREVOR BURROW BLIND BURROWER**

ANTOINE? WE HEARD YOU SCREAM AND--!

**SPIKE THE PORCUPINE SPIKY HERO**

I AM FINE, *MES AMIES*, BUT ZE EGG ARMY IS KNOWING WE ARE HERE.

HURRY! WE MUST FIND EHSAN BEFORE ZE ENEMY CAN RALLY...





"...AND STAGE ANOTHER AMBUSH!"

AHHH!

**BIG THE CAT**  
NAME SAYS  
IT ALL



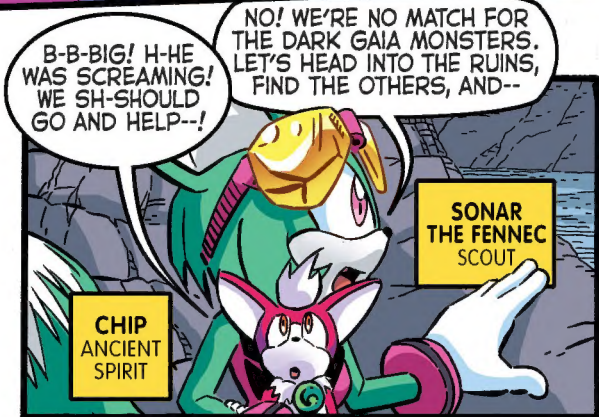
AHHHH!



AHHHHH'OKAY.

POOF

POOF

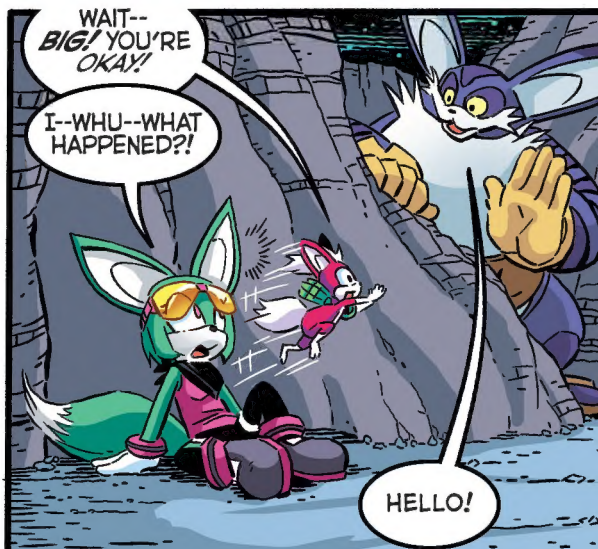


B-B-BIG! H-HE WAS SCREAMING! WE SH-SHOULD GO AND HELP--!

NO! WE'RE NO MATCH FOR THE DARK GAIA MONSTERS. LET'S HEAD INTO THE RUINS, FIND THE OTHERS, AND--

**CHIP**  
ANCIENT  
SPIRIT

**SONAR**  
THE FENNEC  
SCOUT



WAIT-- BIG! YOU'RE OKAY!

I--WHU--WHAT HAPPENED?!

HELLO!



SOME MONSTERS FOUND ME. I SQUISHED THEM, THOUGH.



WELL...UH...NICE WORK, BUT WE SHOULD GET MOVING. I'M HEARING A LOT OF RUCKUS FURTHER IN. SONIC IS IN TROUBLE!

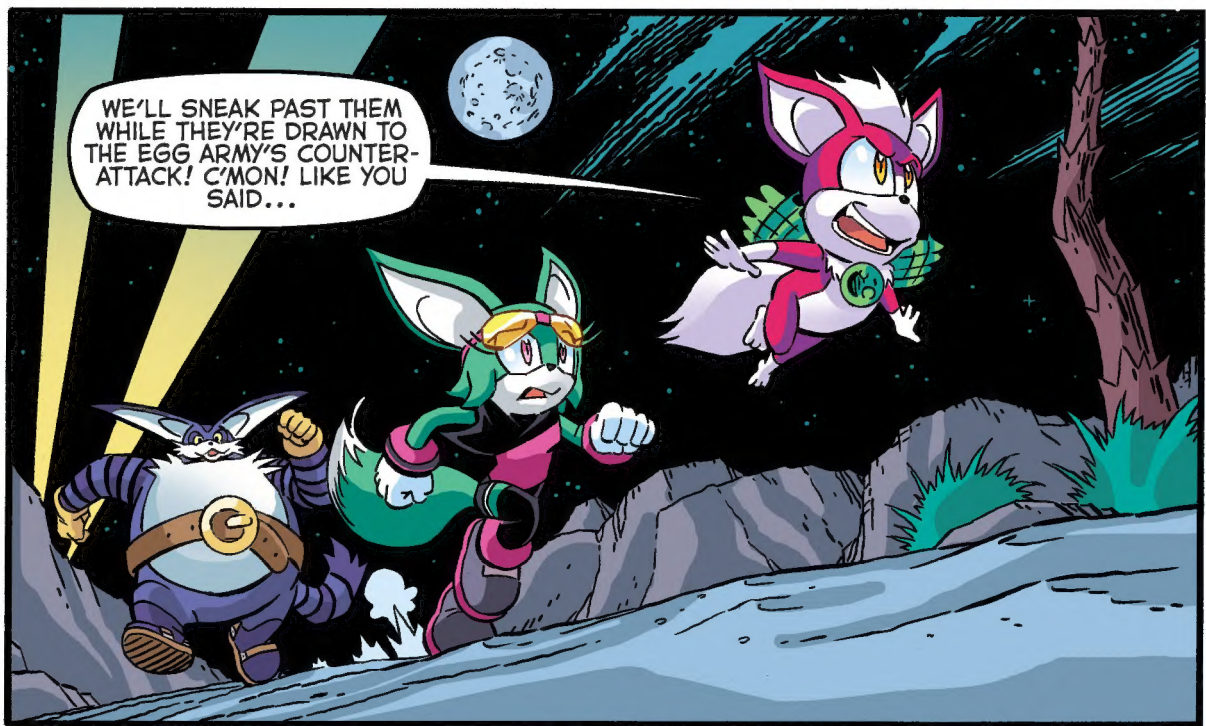
HOLD ON--I JUST CAME UP WITH A PLAN!



WE'LL LURE SOME OF THE MONSTERS INTO THE RUINS! WHILE THEY'RE FIGHTING THE EGG ARMY, WE CAN ESCAPE!

YAY! I LIKE LURES!

BUT...WHAT ABOUT US? WON'T THEY ATTACK US, TOO?



WE'LL SNEAK PAST THEM WHILE THEY'RE DRAWN TO THE EGG ARMY'S COUNTER-ATTACK! C'MON! LIKE YOU SAID...

"...SONIC NEEDS US!"

**THWAK!**

**NEPHTHYS  
THE  
VULTURE  
REGIONAL  
EGG BOSS**

YOU'RE ONLY MAKING THINGS WORSE FOR US ALL, YOU KNOW.

YEAH? HOW'S THAT?

YOUR CONSTANT FIGHTING, ANTAGONIZING EGGMAN, ONLY SERVES TO MAKE HIM REACT MORE VICIOUSLY.

RRRGH!

SO--WHAT? YOU WANT ME TO JUST ROLL OVER AND LET HIM HAVE HIS WAY? THAT'S NOT HAPPENING, LADY.



HE *CAN'T* BE STOPPED. WE EITHER *LIVE* IN HIS EMPIRE, OR *DIE* IN THE FALLOUT OF YOUR FEUD.



OR--I KICK HIS BUTT AND WE ALL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER. YOU CAN THANK ME LATER.

MEANWHILE...

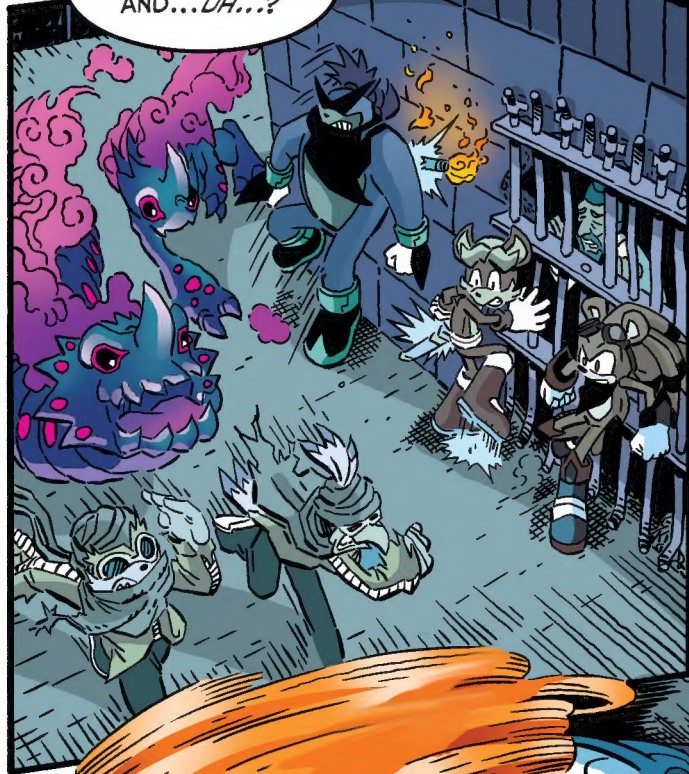
MONSIEUR EHSAN, I AM PRESUMING? WE ARE ZE FREEDOM FIGHTERS! WE'VE COME TO RESCUE YOU!

DID ZEY HARM YOU?

NO. THEY'VE BEEN MERCIFUL. BUT THE CURRY THEY'VE BEEN FEEDING ME IS AWFUL!

IT'S *NOT* THAT BAD...

I SENSE MOVEMENT DOWN THE HALL. LOTS OF FOOT TRAFFIC. EGG ARMY AND... UH...?

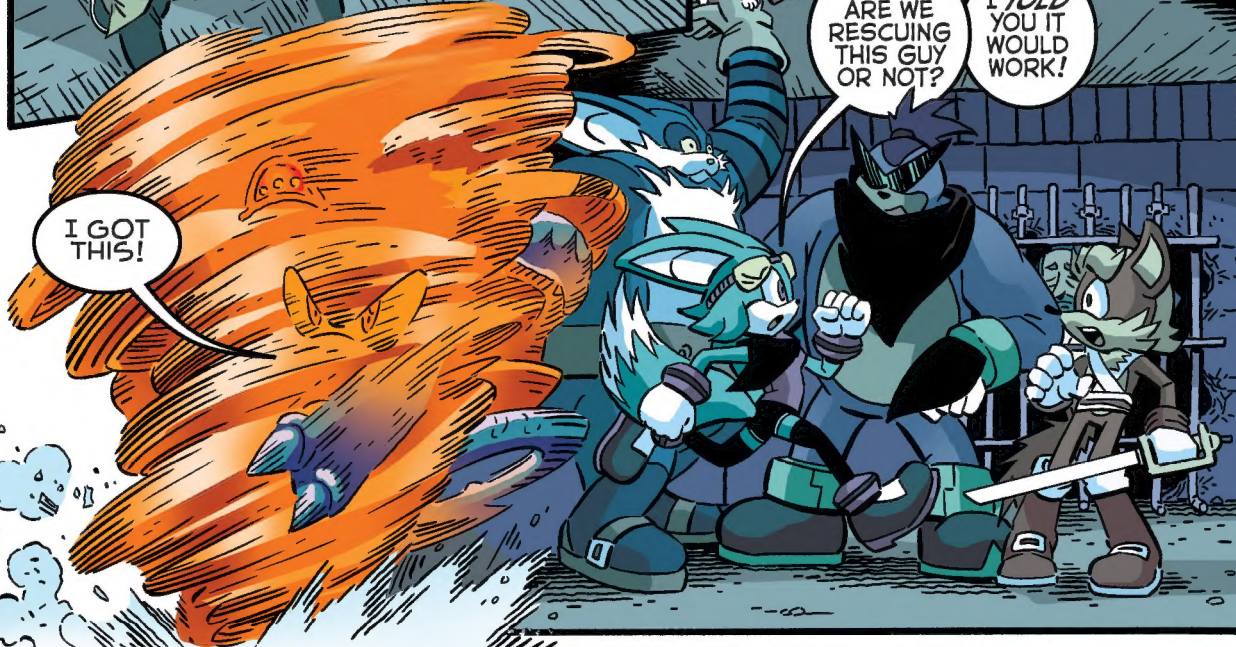


MON DIEU!

I GOT THIS!

SO...HI! ARE WE RESCUING THIS GUY OR NOT?

I TOLD YOU IT WOULD WORK!

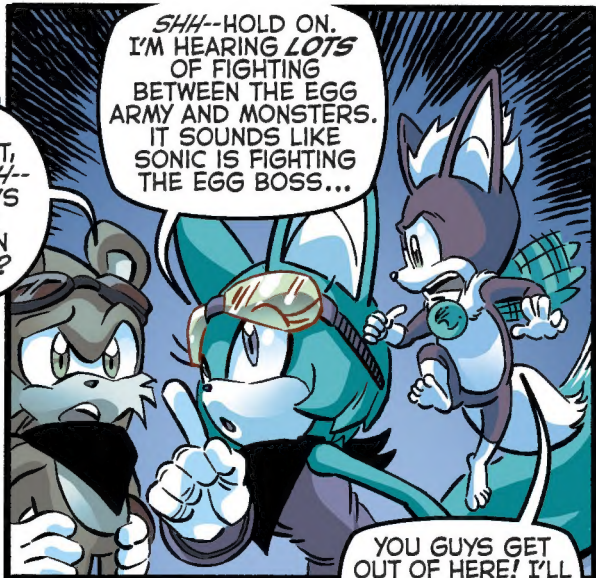




# SCRUNCH!

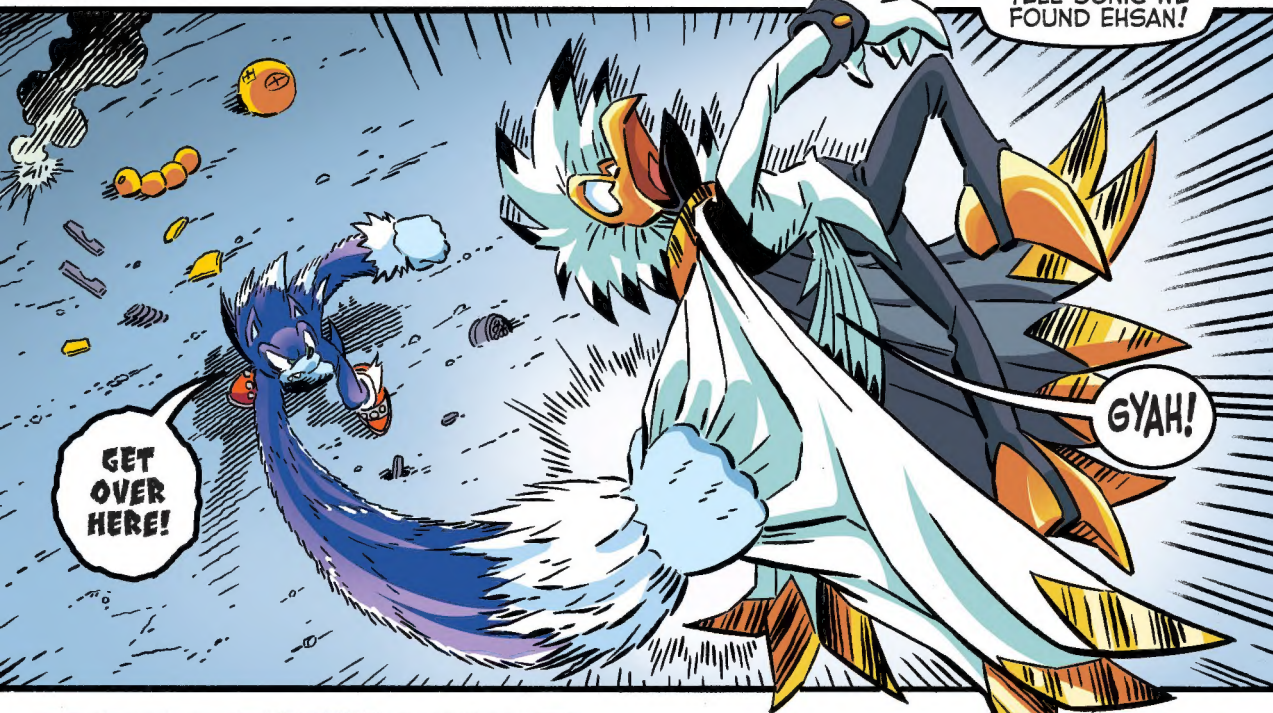


ALL RIGHT, SO--UH--WHAT'S THE PLAN NOW?



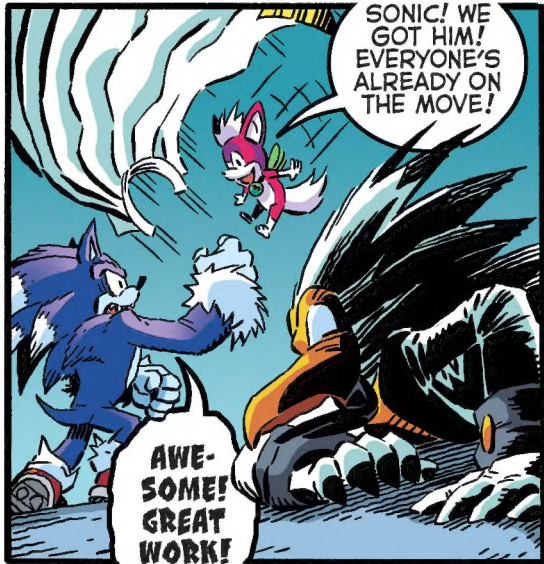
SHH--HOLD ON. I'M HEARING LOTS OF FIGHTING BETWEEN THE EGG ARMY AND MONSTERS. IT SOUNDS LIKE SONIC IS FIGHTING THE EGG BOSS...

YOU GUYS GET OUT OF HERE! I'LL TELL SONIC WE FOUND EHSAN!



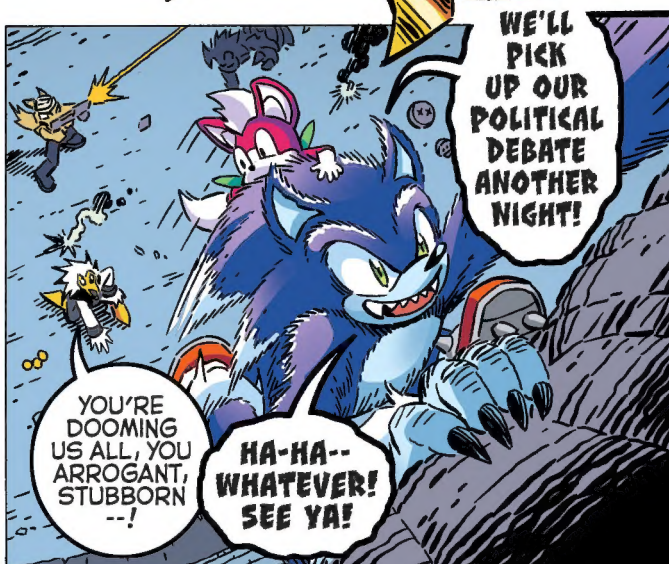
GET OVER HERE!

GYAH!



SONIC! WE GOT HIM! EVERYONE'S ALREADY ON THE MOVE!

AWE-SOME! GREAT WORK!



WE'LL PICK UP OUR POLITICAL DEBATE ANOTHER NIGHT!

YOU'RE DOOMING US ALL, YOU ARROGANT, STUBBORN --!

HA-HA-- WHATEVER! SEE YA!

LATER...

IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE I GO NEAR THE GAIA TEMPLE AGAIN.

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL FIND IT IN ROUGH SHAPE WHEN YOU USE THESE KEYS.

NO WORRIES.

AND THANK YOU AGAIN FOR COMING TO MY RESCUE.

DON'T THANK ME. ALL I DID WAS GET SHOT AT. THESE GUYS DID ALL THE HARD WORK.

I'M GLAD WE COULD LINK UP TEAMS, SPIKE. YOU REALLY HELPED US OUT.

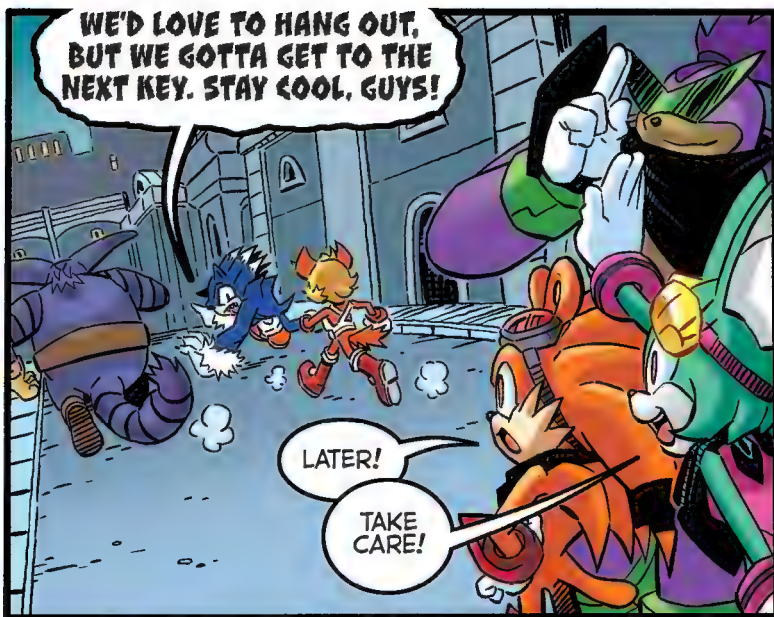
IT'S BEEN AN HONOR, SIR. I HOPE WE CAN DO IT AGAIN SOME DAY.

SO THERE ARE MORE OF THESE "KEY GUARDIANS" AROUND THE WORLD? HOW MANY OTHERS DO YOU NEED TO FIND?

ZAT IS SENSITIVE INFORMATION WE MUST BE GUARDING VERY--

FOUR.

WHY DO I EVEN BOTHER?



WE'D LOVE TO HANG OUT, BUT WE GOTTA GET TO THE NEXT KEY. STAY COOL, GUYS!

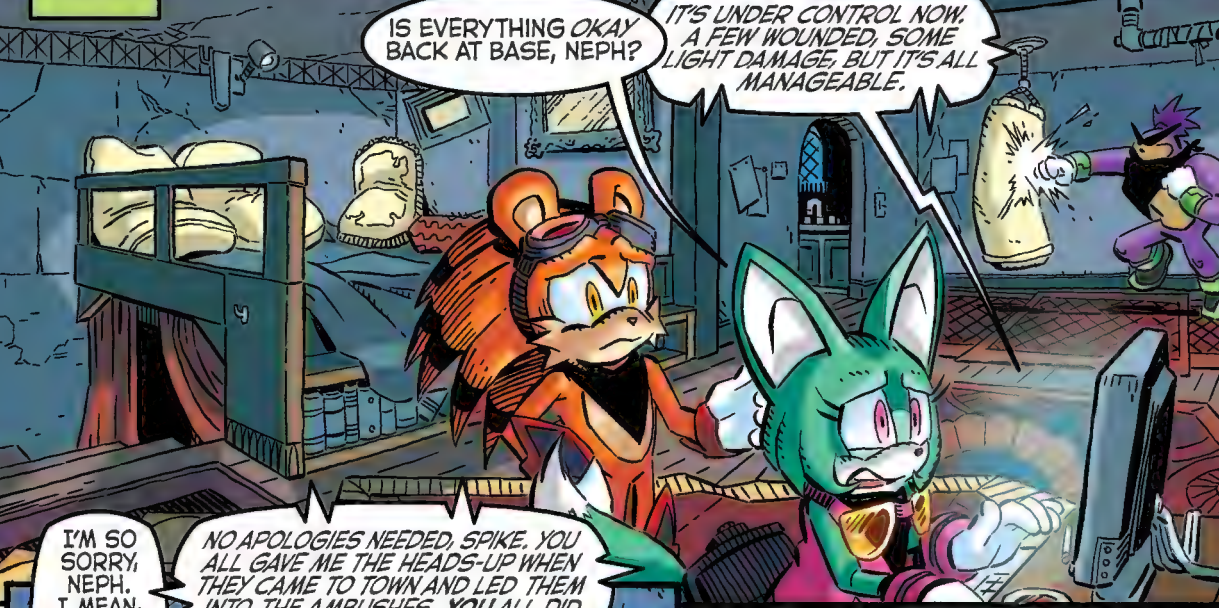
LATER!

TAKE CARE!



MOVE IT!

SOON...

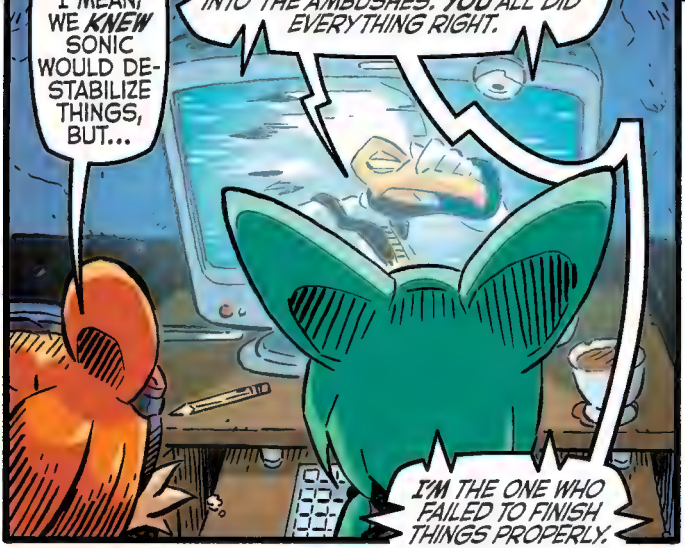


IS EVERYTHING OKAY BACK AT BASE, NEPH?

IT'S UNDER CONTROL NOW. A FEW WOUNDED, SOME LIGHT DAMAGE, BUT IT'S ALL MANAGEABLE.

I'M SO SORRY, NEPH. I MEAN, WE *KNEW* SONIC WOULD DE-STABILIZE THINGS, BUT...

NO APOLOGIES NEEDED, SPIKE. YOU ALL GAVE ME THE HEADS-UP WHEN THEY CAME TO TOWN AND LED THEM INTO THE AMBUSHES. YOU ALL DID EVERYTHING RIGHT.

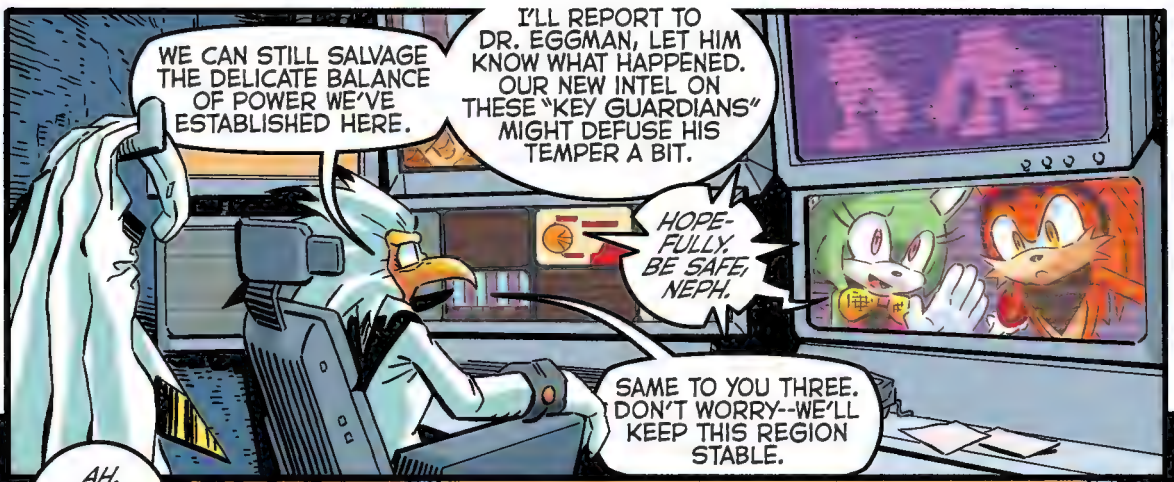


I'M THE ONE WHO FAILED TO FINISH THINGS PROPERLY.



WELL, IF WE HAD ANY DOUBT IN OUR PLAN BEFORE, IT'S GONE NOW.

RIGHT. SONIC SHOWED UP AND EVERYTHING FELL TO PIECES.



WE CAN STILL SALVAGE THE DELICATE BALANCE OF POWER WE'VE ESTABLISHED HERE.

I'LL REPORT TO DR. EGGMAN, LET HIM KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. OUR NEW INTEL ON THESE "KEY GUARDIANS" MIGHT DEFUSE HIS TEMPER A BIT.

HOPEFULLY BE SAFE, NEPH.

SAME TO YOU THREE. DON'T WORRY--WE'LL KEEP THIS REGION STABLE.

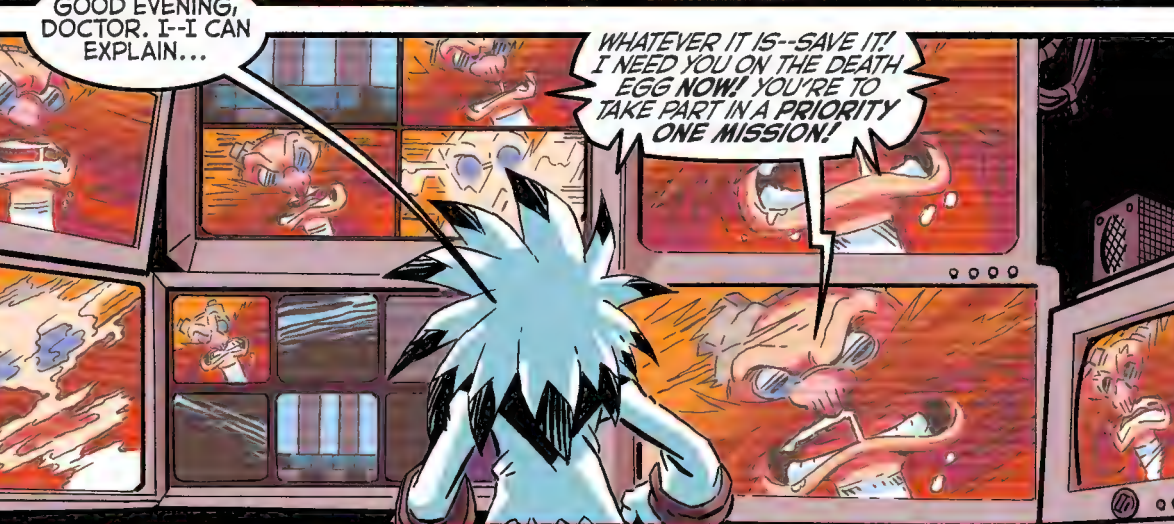
AH, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...

...WAIT. WHY IS HE CALLING ME? DOES HE SOMEHOW KNOW...?



INCOMING CALL!

INCOMING CALL!



GOOD EVENING, DOCTOR. I-I CAN EXPLAIN...

WHATEVER IT IS--SAVE IT! I NEED YOU ON THE DEATH EGG NOW! YOU'RE TO TAKE PART IN A PRIORITY ONE MISSION!

**What IS That Mission?**  
CHECK OUT "EGGMAN'S DOZEN" IN SONIC UNIVERSE TO FIND OUT!  
NEXT TIME, THE WORLD-SPANNING ADVENTURE CONTINUES!  
AND YOU CAN FIND EVEN MORE SONIC ADVENTURES IN THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!

BUNNIE  
"RABBOT"  
D'COOLETTE  
FREEDOM  
FIGHTER

NO  
SUDDEN  
MOVES,  
GOT IT?

CASSIA THE  
PRONGHORN  
CO-EGG BOSS

LADY  
CASSIA!  
ARE  
YOU ALL  
RIGHT?

# HIDDEN COSTS PART THREE

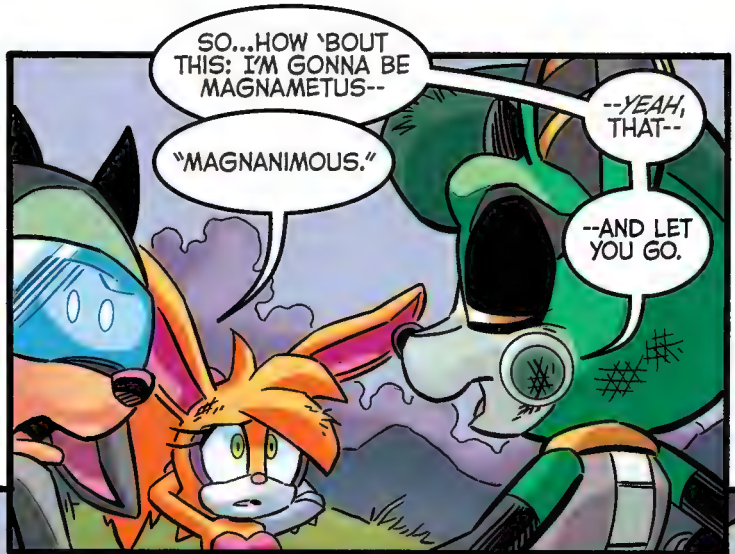
WRITER: ALEAH BAKER  
PENCILS: EVAN STANLEY  
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN  
COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA  
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN

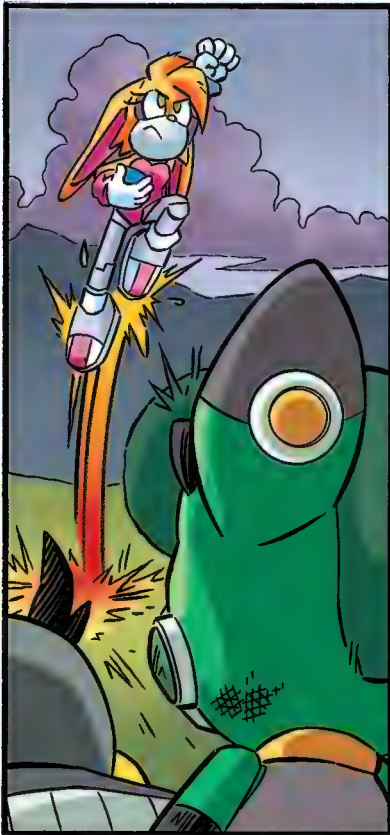
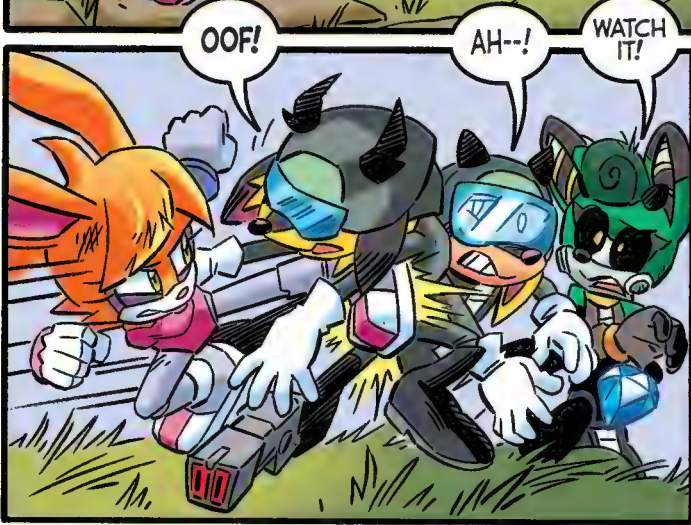
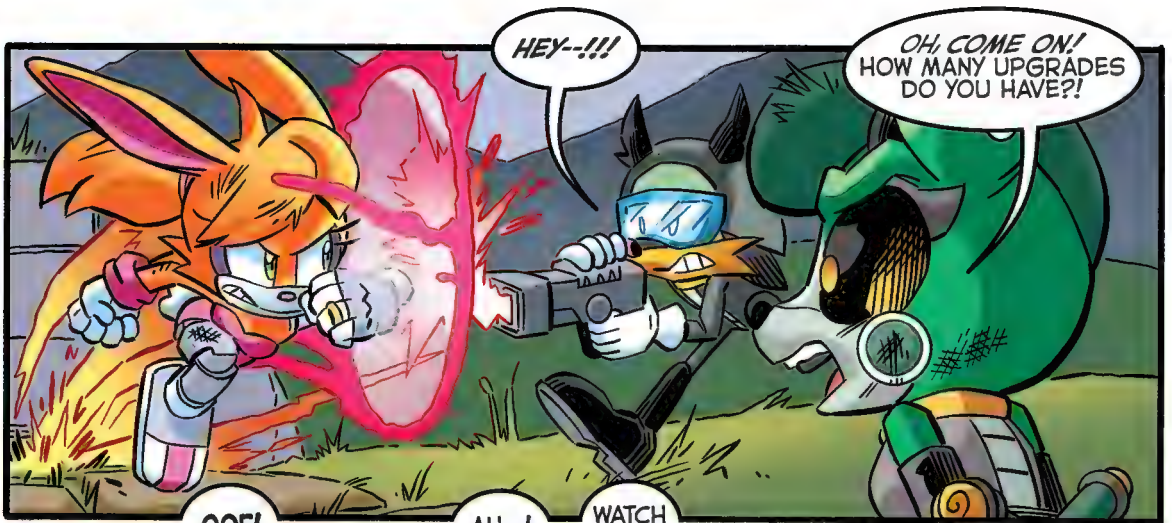
UGH,  
DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT IT.  
BESIDES,  
CHECK OUT  
WHAT I  
FOUND!

IS  
THAT...  
A CHAOS  
EMERALD  
...?

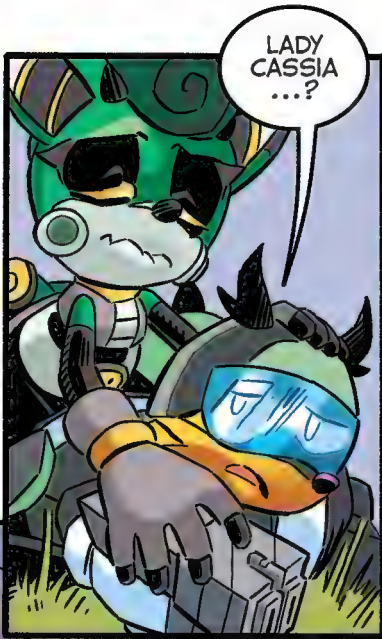
SURE IS! BUT I  
GUESS NOW I GOTTA  
FIGURE OUT WHAT  
TO DO...

...WITH YOU.





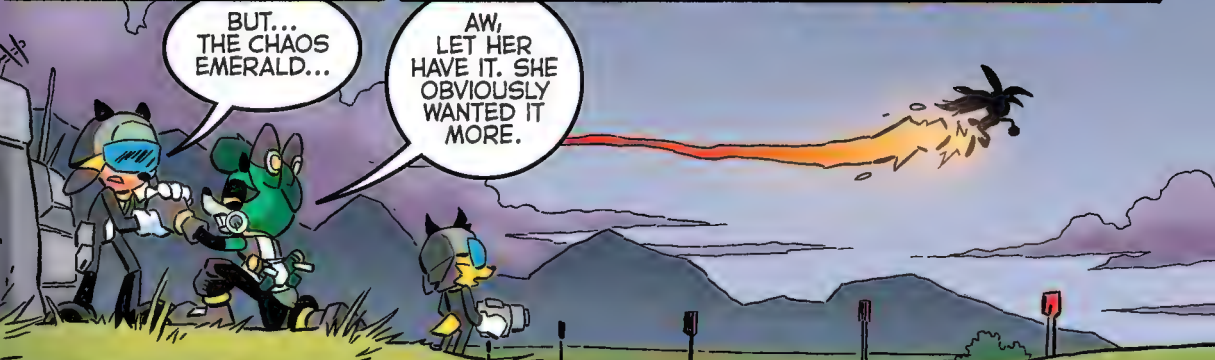
YOU ARROGANT...!



LADY CASSIA ...?



PSHAHAHAAAAHA!  
OH, MAN! HOW BOLD  
WAS THAT?!



BUT...  
THE CHAOS  
EMERALD...

AW,  
LET HER  
HAVE IT. SHE  
OBVIOUSLY  
WANTED IT  
MORE.



BESIDES, EGGMAN  
DIDN'T EVEN KNOW  
IT WAS *HERE*. SO,  
Y'KNOW, MAYBE YOU  
GUYS NEVER SAW  
ANYTHING.

NEVER... OH!  
UNDERSTOOD.



ANNND  
MAYBE MY  
SISTER...

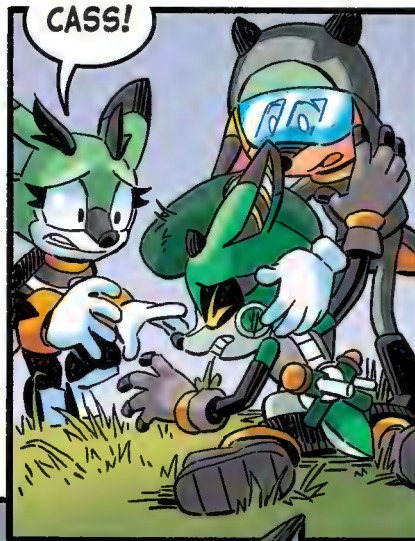
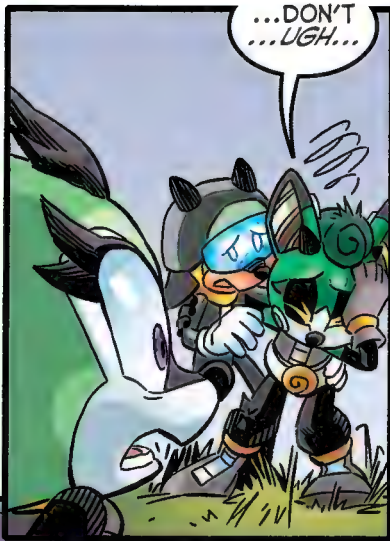
... DOESN'T NEED  
TO KNOW ABOUT  
ALL THIS...

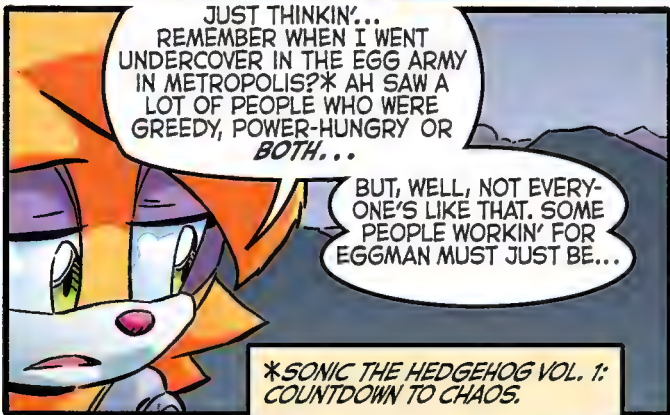
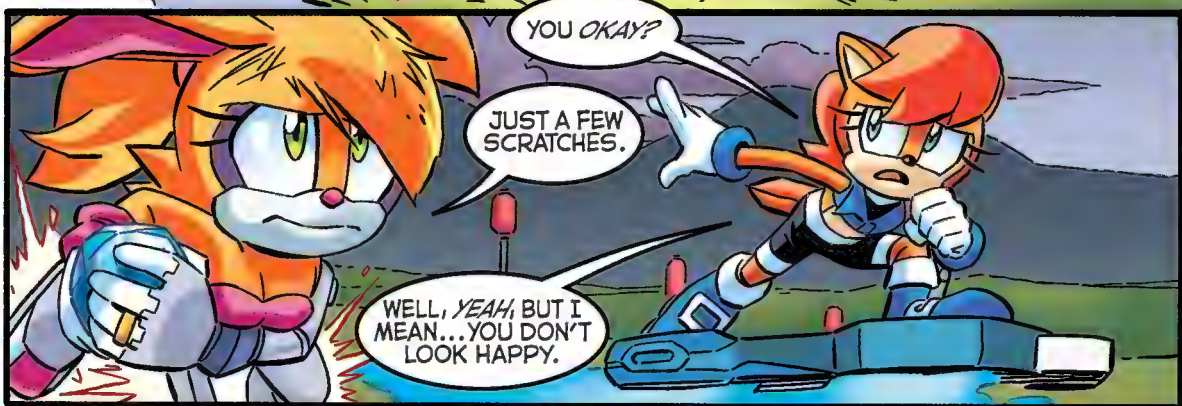


CASSIA?!

CRUDBUCKETS.







LATER, ABOARD THE SKY PATROL...

HEY, Y'ALL... DID SOMEONE ORDER ONE GEM OF INFINITE MYSTICAL POW--

OH, MA PAUVRE BUNNIE! YOU ARE HURTED!

CREAM THE RABBIT (AND CHEESE)

AW, RELAX, SUGAR-TWAN, IT AIN'T SO BAD.

≧GASP≦ THAT'S THE LAST CHAOS EMERALD! YOU DID IT!

NOW WE CAN SAVE THE WORLD!

AND WE WILL!

OOH, WHAT SHOULD WE MAKE? I'LL HELP, MR. D'COOLETTE!

ME, TOO!

AH, NON, MA CHÈRE PRINCESS... YOU AND BUNNIE SHOULD GET ZE REST.

I AM THINKING ZIS CALLS FOR SOME CELEBRATION, YES? TO ZE KITCHEN!

AFTER ALL, IT IS THANKS TO YOU (AND NICOLE)...

...ZAT WE NOW HAVE ALL SEVEN CHAOS EMERALDS!



WITHIN THE EGG  
ARMY BASE...

DOCTOR...  
MY SISTER HAD  
ANOTHER...INCIDENT.  
I THOUGHT...

I THOUGHT THIS WASN'T  
SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN ANY-  
MORE! YOU SAID THAT ONCE  
SHE FINISHED ADAPTING TO  
THE CYBERNETICS, SHE'D  
BE FINE!

HMM... I DID SAY THAT.  
THE THING IS, THOUGH...

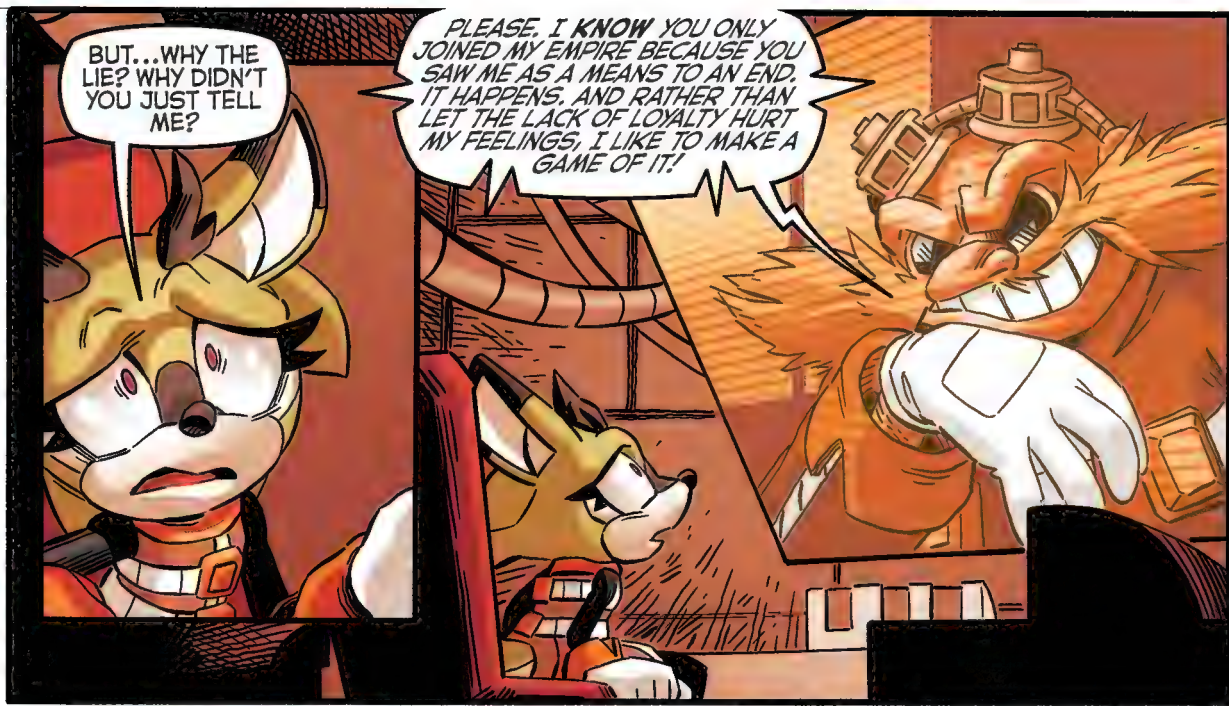
...I LIED.

YES, MY CYBERNETICS RESTORED  
SOME FUNCTIONALITY, BUT I NEVER  
CURED HER CONDITION. IN FACT,  
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S WRONG  
WITH HER! NOT REALLY THAT KIND  
OF DOCTOR.

THE TREATMENT ISN'T TO HELP  
HER ADAPT TO THE CYBERNETICS.  
SHE'S FINE IN THAT REGARD.

DOCTOR  
EGGMAN

IT'S TO KEEP HER FROM  
DEGRADING FURTHER...  
AND IF SHE STOPS  
UNDERGOING IT, WELL...



BUT...WHY THE LIE? WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME?

PLEASE, I KNOW YOU ONLY JOINED MY EMPIRE BECAUSE YOU SAW ME AS A MEANS TO AN END. IT HAPPENS, AND RATHER THAN LET THE LACK OF LOYALTY HURT MY FEELINGS, I LIKE TO MAKE A GAME OF IT!

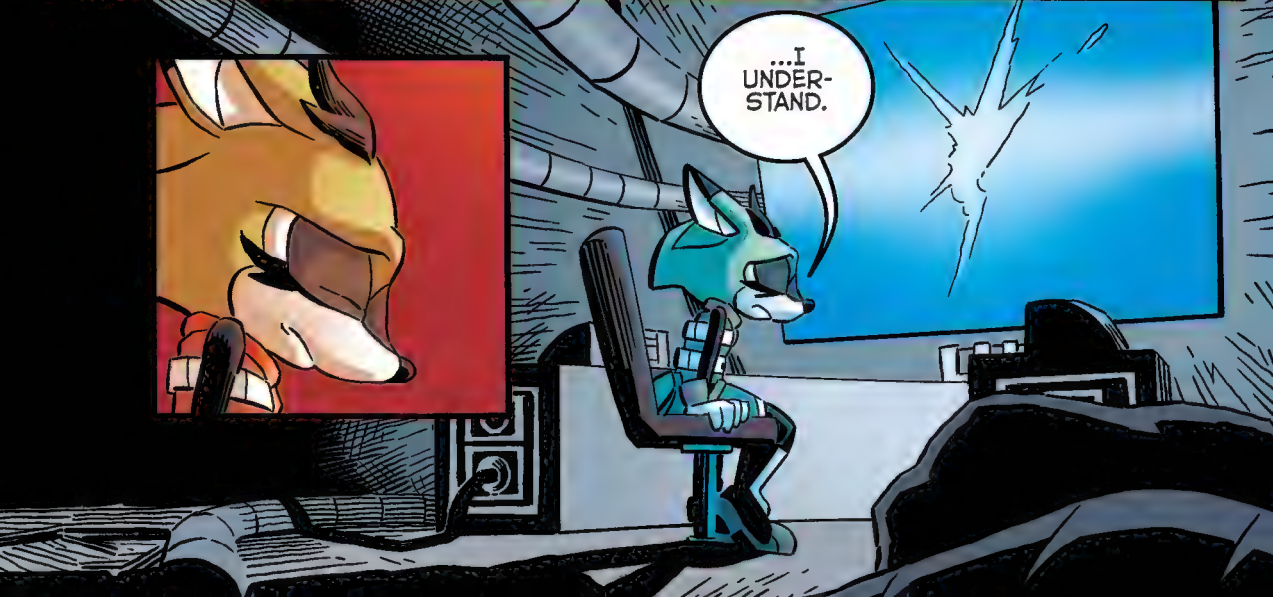


NOW, NOW, DON'T LOOK SO GLUM! IT'S NOT ALL THAT BAD. THE LITTLE BRAT IS CERTAINLY DOING BETTER NOW THAN SHE WAS WHEN WE FIRST MET, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

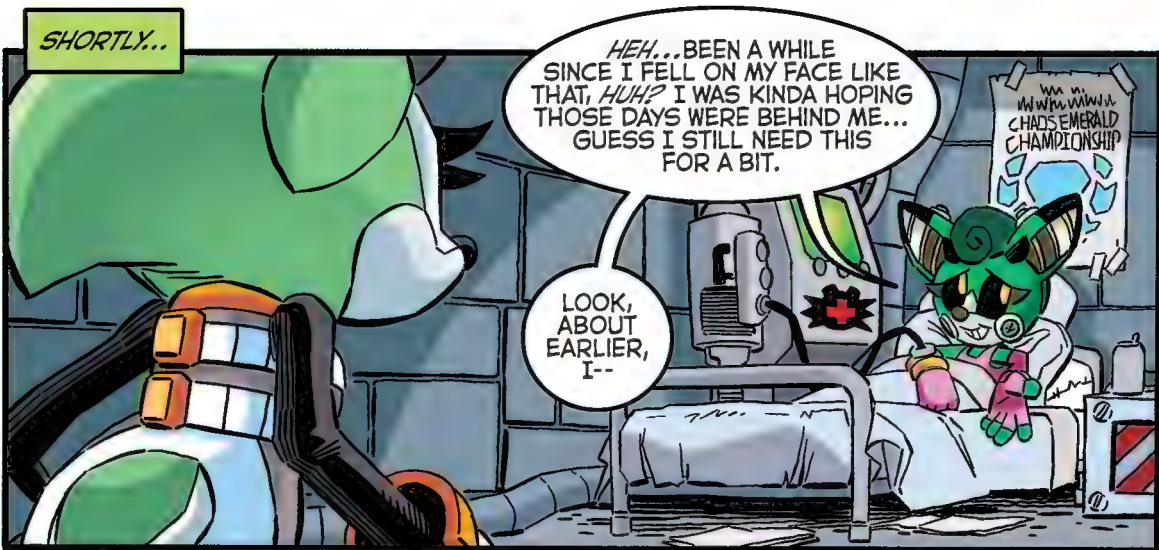


AND SHE'LL KEEP RECEIVING HER TREATMENT...AS LONG AS YOU KEEP SERVING MY EMPIRE.

...I UNDERSTAND.



SHORTLY...



HEH... BEEN A WHILE SINCE I FELL ON MY FACE LIKE THAT, *HUH?* I WAS KINDA HOPING THOSE DAYS WERE BEHIND ME... GUESS I STILL NEED THIS FOR A BIT.

LOOK, ABOUT EARLIER, I--



HEY... I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY. I JUST... HATE FEELING SO WEAK.

BUT ONCE I'M DONE WITH MY TREATMENT, WE CAN BREAK AWAY FROM THAT GOON AND HIS WHOLE STUPID EMPIRE, RIGHT?



THAT'S RIGHT. JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER...



**THE END...**  
*FOR NOW!*

# Letter from the EDITOR

Editorial commentary that's both "deer" to us and "for the birds"!

## Howdy, Sonic fans!

Do you know what time it is? That's right! It's time for another "buh-WHAAAAAATT???" moment in *Sonic the Hedgehog*! Betcha didn't see it coming that the **Shamar Freedom Fighters** were actually working together with **Egg Boss Nephthys**! Their alliance is just one example of how there is more to Sonic's world than just good and evil. We'll dig deeper into the sandy complexity that is the Shamar FF and Neph at a later date. For now, please enjoy the dashing concepts of Neph by **Ian Flynn** and **Adam Bryce Thomas** below!

**BELOW:** Casual PJs color study for **Cassia the Pronghorn**.



Also, how cool was **Bunnie** in "Hidden Costs" pt. 3 and how cute are **Cassia's** pajamas?! You can see the full design by **Evan Stanley** to the left!

This won't be the last you'll see of **Clove** and **Cassia**! In fact, you'll encounter more of Clove in the all-new story arc, "Eggman's Dozen" starting in *Sonic Universe* #83!

That's all for now, folks! 'Till next time, be cool, be wild and be groovy!

- Vincent "Vin" Lovallo  
Editor



2016

**BELOW:** Various design concepts for the newest addition to the Egg Boss line-up, **Nephthys the Vulture**. "Nephthys" is the name of an ancient Egyptian god of the dead.

## NEPHTHYS THE EGYPTIAN VULTURE

EGG BOSS OF MIDESTA • Ian Flynn • June 2015

- named for the Egyptian goddess who protected the dead
- rigid, serious, but can be compassionate and motherly (more "serious business" than Clove)
- conspires with local F.F. to perpetuate a stalemate to prevent damaging conflict (Eggman never loses, but never gains ground, either)
- (Sonic & Co. seen as doing more harm than good by instigating Eggman)
- lifelong friend of local F.F., chose to become Egg Boss for their plan to work



Profile view.  
- golden cyborg mask  
- hinge like jaw - NOT chubby cheeks!

- Mask is expressive  
- How? SCIENCE!

Back view of uniform

# SONIC GRAMS

# FAN ART



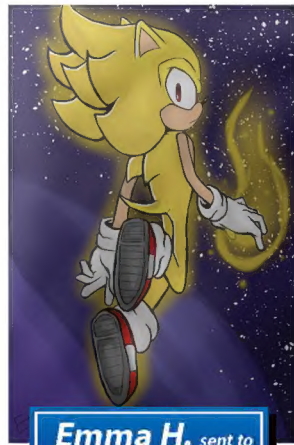
Daniella S. sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



Erica D.  
from Canada



Thomas H. sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



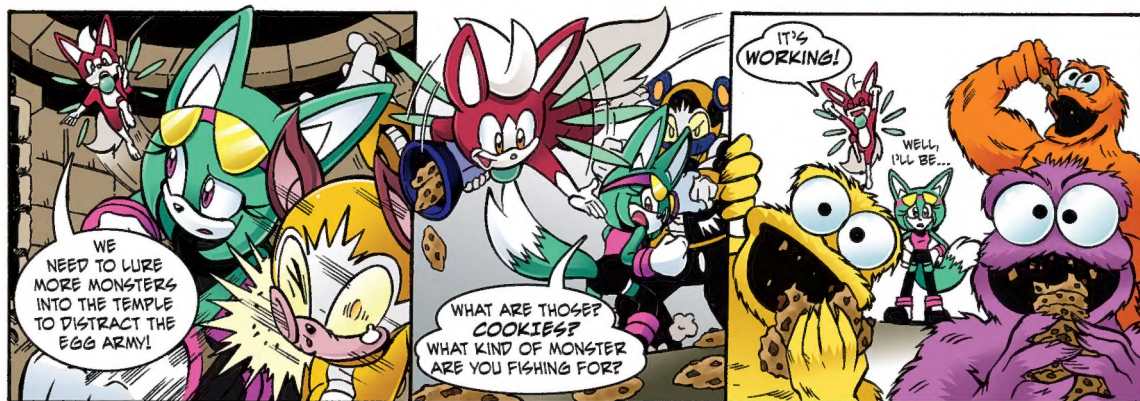
Emma H. sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



## OFF-PANEL

## C IS FOR ROOKY AND

## MASTER OF DISASTER



SCRIPT: ERIC ESQUIVEL PENCILS: LAMAR WELLS INKS: RICK BRYANT COLORS: ALEAH BAKER





SEGA.COM - ARCHIECOMICS.COM

# SONIC GRAMS

WRITE TO US @: SONIC GRAMS C/O  
ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.  
829 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 100  
PELHAM, NY 10803-1242 E-MAIL:  
SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM  
OR TWEET AT US USING #SONICGRAMS!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

Hey! I have questions that need to be answered!

*Well, blunt, no-nonsense and to the point, I see! OK letter-writer-person-- I have answers that need to be questioned! How d'ya like that?*

1. What were Sonic's emotions when he faced off against Metal Sonic for the first time?

*It was like a chorus of angels! They sang, they danced! They held hands, prancing upon sandy beaches in the moonlight as they happily beat each other's brains out! It was HEAVEN.*

2. I'm talking to Sonic now. Sonic, what's it feel like to get robotized?

*Its like a chorus of angels! There's singing, dancing, hand-holding and prancing upon sandy beaches in the moonlight! This isn't Sonic answering, by the way, it's Eggman! Do you see what I did here?*

3. What was your best win against Egghead?

*All of them. His best win was all of them.*

4. Will you please put this letter in? PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEA— (This repeats somewhere around 20 more times and OOPS our first column is now out of room!)

PLEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE WITH A CHERRY CHEESECAKE ON TOP?

Talis W.  
from Virginia

*I'm not sure we'll have the space to print your letter, Talis! But if we do, check our letter columns to find it!*

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

I love what you're doing at Archie with my favorite blue hero!

*Well, thank you, friend!*

I was wondering if you guys were going to feature Sonic using his boost to go all out with his speed. It's a theory, but the Cherenkov radiation he glows when moving faster than light would be awesome if you guys explain it. I hope this goes through. I love adding to the hype of the fastest thing alive!! Keep on juicin'!

Sterling H. sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

*...Cherenkov? What does....? Huh!? "looks it up... blank, bewildered stare"*

*Sonic goes vroom-vroom! Thanks for the letter, Sterling! Keep on juicin'!*

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'  
Hey there!

*Hey, hey-hey!*

I've been a super-big fan of your comics. My first comic was the "Scourge:

Lockdown" arc, and from that moment on I knew I HAD to see more!

*Glad you stuck with us!*

That was about 3 years ago, and I'm pretty well updated. But I have some questions I'd like to ask: 1) What comics do I need to look for if I want to see the complete Worlds Unite saga?

*"Worlds Unite" encompasses these issues: Sonic Universe #76-78, Sonic Boom #8-10, Sonic the Hedgehog #273-275 and Mega Man™ #50-52 all of which are available on the new Archie app!*

2) Who is Gold besides a telepathic Member of the Council?

*Gold is a tenrec who fled from a catastrophe on another world...*

3) Who was Silver's traitor? That's all for now guys! Thanks!

Hannah H. sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

*Princess Sally. 200+ years of history (and Silver jumping to conclusions) lost the details that she'd been robotized and lost her free will! Of course, everything was later undone with the onset of the Super Genesis Wave... Hope that helped, Hannah!*

*And with that, we'll see y'all later!*

CHECK OUT WHAT'S COMING SOON FROM



BRAND NEW STORY ARC!



# SONIC UNIVERSE™

ISSUE 83

CAN DR. EGGMAN DEFEAT THE EVIL NAUGUS TWINS?



EGGMAN'S DOZEN

PART ONE OF FOUR

NEXT ISSUE: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 280



**KEYS' TO VICTORY**  
AND "A SPECIAL OCCASION"